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Advisory Announcement

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Prince William Sound Area Tanner Crab Commissioner's Permit Fishery Statistical Area 486001 Closes Emergency Order 2-SF-E-04-21

A Commissioner's Permit fishery for Tanner crab in Prince William Sound Area (PWS; 5 AAC 35.311) was opened in the Eastern and Western Districts, except for Statistical Area 486005, at 12:01 a.m. March 2, after a weather delay, with a pot limit of 25 pots and mandatory daily reports from fishers to monitor harvest and effort. Statistical Areas 485931 and 485935 closed at 11:59 p.m. March 20 due to conservation concerns (Figure 1).

Fishery performance in Statistical Area 486001 has been declining during the past week as indicated by daily reports of decreasing Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) of number of legal crab caught per pot. Therefore, to avoid localized depletion, **Statistical Area 486001 will close at 11:59 p.m. Saturday, March 27** for the remainder of the Commissioner's Permit Tanner crab season. Statistical Areas 486005, 485931, and 485935 will remain closed.

Other statistical areas within the Eastern and Western Districts will remain open until 11:59 p.m. March 31, when the season closes. ADF&G will continue to monitor the fishery through daily mandatory call-in reports.

For additional information, contact Jan Rumble at (907) 321-1569 or Elisa Russ (907) 399-1721.

COVID-19

Under Alaska's Health Orders 5, 6, and 8, commercial fishing is an Essential Business and is part of Alaska's Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure. Commercial fishermen should ensure that all travel and other activities in support of commercial fishing operations follow protocols in Alaska COVID-19 Health Orders. COVID-19 Health Orders may be found here: <https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-order/>.

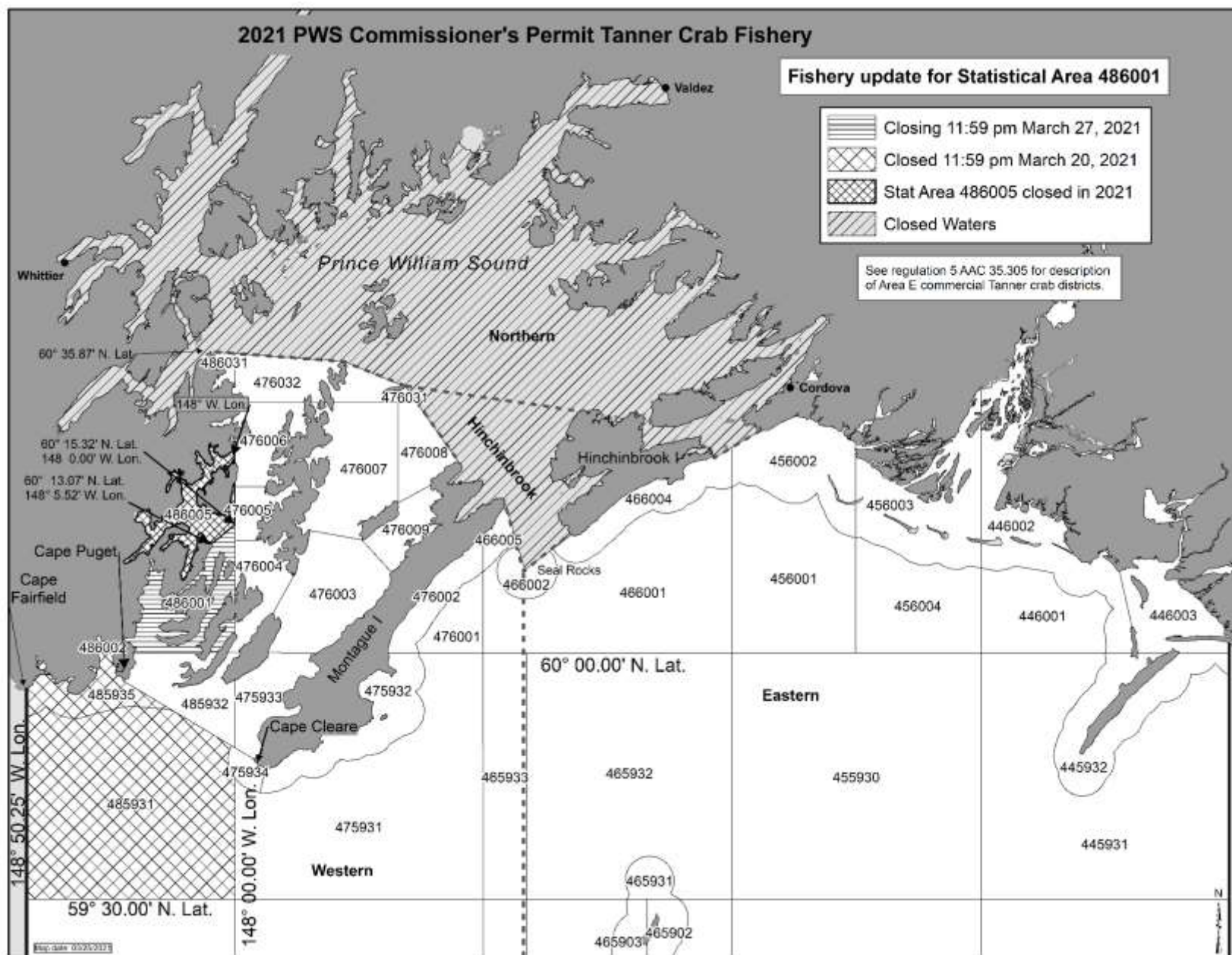


Figure 1.—Prince William Sound Area commercial Tanner crab districts; Commissioner’s Permit fishery open in Eastern and Western districts, except Statistical Areas 486005, 485931, and 485935 remain closed and Statistical Area 486001 will close at 11:59 p.m. March 27, 2021.